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1 1. A method for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote  
2 electronic content based on a single query, the method comprising:  
3 receiving a single query that includes at least one search term;  
4 comparing the received search term automatically in response to the single query with  
5 indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and  
6 comparing the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device  
7 to derive a second result;  
8 combining the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and  
9 displaying the amalgamated result.

1 2. The method as in claim 1 wherein the local device includes a personal  
2 computing device.

1 3. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term  
2 includes simultaneously comparing the received search term with the indexed electronic  
3 content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

1 4. The method as in claim 1 wherein the amalgamated result is displayed without  
2 indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result or the second  
3 result.

1 5. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term  
2 includes comparing based on a single input action by a user.

1 6. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing the received search term  
2 automatically in response to the single input action by the user includes performing a first  
3 comparison of the received search term with the indexed electronic content stored on the  
4 local device and, at a separate time, performing a second comparison of the received search  
5 term with the electronic content stored on the remote device

1 7. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing against content stored on the  
2 local device and content stored on the remote device based on a single action received from a  
3 user is performed automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to

4 compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local  
5 device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

1 8. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing against content stored on the  
2 local device and content stored on the remote device based on a single action received from a  
3 user is performed with the user pre-selecting to compare the received search term with both  
4 the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on  
5 the remote device.

1 9. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term  
2 includes comparing the received search term, in response to the single query, with indexed  
3 electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic content stored on  
4 a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local device are  
5 networked in a local area network.

1 10. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an index based on the  
2 electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search term  
3 includes comparing the received search term with the index.

1 11. The method as in claim 10 wherein creating the index includes creating the  
2 index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local device.

1 12. The method as in claim 10 wherein creating the index includes creating the  
2 index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the local device.

1 13. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an inverted index based  
2 on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search  
3 term includes comparing the received search term with the inverted index.

1 14. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an index based on the  
2 electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term  
3 includes comparing the received search term with the index.

1           15.     The method as in claim 14 further comprising creating a local index based on  
2     the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search  
3     term includes comparing the received search term with the local index.

1           16.     The method as in claim 14 further comprising creating a local inverted index  
2     based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received  
3     search term includes comparing the received search term with the local inverted index.

1           17.     The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term  
2     includes performing a single comparison of the received search term with both the indexed  
3     electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote  
4     device.

1           18.     The method as in claim 1 further comprising, in response to an action of a user  
2     of the local device, designating at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the  
3     local device for comparison with the received search term.

1           19.     The method as in claim 1 further comprising, in response to an action of a user  
2     of the local device, designating at least one file location of the indexed electronic content  
3     stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

1           20.     A computer program stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated  
2     signal for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content  
3     based on a single query, comprising:

4             a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a single query that  
5     includes at least one search term;

6             a comparing code segment that causes the computer to compare the received search  
7     term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is  
8     stored on a local device to derive a first result and to compare the received search term with  
9     electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result;

10            a combining code segment that causes the computer to combine the first result and the  
11     second result into an amalgamated result; and

12            a displaying code segment that causes the computer to display the amalgamated  
13     result.

1           21.     The computer program of claim 20 wherein the local device includes a  
2     personal computing device.

1           22.     The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment  
2     causes the computer to simultaneously compare the received search term with the indexed  
3     electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote  
4     device.

1           23.     The computer program of claim 20 wherein the amalgamated result is  
2     displayed without indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result  
3     or the second result.

1           24.     The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment  
2     causes the computer to compare based on a single input action by a user.

1           25.     The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment  
2     causes the computer to perform a first comparison of the received search term with the  
3     indexed electronic content stored on the local device and, at a separate time, perform a  
4     second comparison of the received search term with the electronic content stored on the  
5     remote device.

1           26.     The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment that  
2     causes the computer to compare against content stored on the local device and content stored  
3     on the remote device based on a single action received from a user causes the computer to  
4     perform automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to cause the  
5     computer to compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content  
6     stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

1           27.     The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment that  
2     causes the computer to compare against content stored on the local device and content stored  
3     on the remote device based on a single action received from a user causes the computer to  
4     perform with the user pre-selecting to cause the computer to compare the received search  
5     term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic  
6     content stored on the remote device.

1           28.     The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment  
2 causes the computer to compare the received search term, in response to the single query,  
3 with indexed electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic  
4 content stored on a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local  
5 device are networked in a local area network.

1           29.     The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code  
2 segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on  
3 the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the  
4 received search term with the index.

1           30.     The computer program of claim 29 wherein the index creating code segment  
2 causes the computer to create the index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local  
3 device.

1           31.     The computer program of claim 29 wherein the index creating code segment  
2 causes the computer to create the index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the  
3 local device.

1           32.     The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code  
2 segment that causes the computer to create an inverted index based on the electronic content  
3 stored on the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to  
4 compare the received search term with the inverted index.

1           33.     The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code  
2 segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on  
3 the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the  
4 received search term with the index.

1           34.     The computer program of claim 33 further comprising a local index creating  
2 code segment that causes the computer to create a local index based on the electronic content  
3 stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to  
4 compare the received search term with the local index.

1           35.     The computer program of claim 33 further comprising a local index creating  
2     code segment that causes the computer to create a local inverted index based on the  
3     electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes  
4     the computer to compare the received search term with the local inverted index.

1           36.     The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment  
2     causes the computer to perform a single comparison of the received search term with both the  
3     indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the  
4     remote device.

1           37.     The computer program of claim 20 further comprising, in response to an  
2     action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to  
3     designate at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the local device for  
4     comparison with the received search term.

1           38.     The computer program of claim 20 further comprising, in response to an  
2     action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to  
3     designate at least one file location of the indexed electronic content stored on the local device  
4     for comparison with the received search term.

*add A2*